

ed. and which surprised me very much. The fronds which are acting in this queer way are old mature fronds of last year.—MARY C. REYNOLDS.

A MICHIGAN TRILLIUM.—Five or six years ago, I found a single *Trillium*. The petals were white with a greenish stripe through the center, obovate-mucronate in outline. The plant seemed specifically different from other members of this genus, but, search failing to reveal any more, I considered it, for some time, as merely a curious sport—a sort of *lusus naturæ*. The next year I found more of them, and have continued to find more or less every year since. Several of my friends have also met this plant in their collecting. I am now inclined to think it is rather widely distributed in Michigan; and the facts I have gathered concerning it seem worth recording.

The typical form of this plant is about the size of *T. grandiflorum*, Salisb., blossoms at the same time, and is sometimes found growing with it. The leaves are broadly-ovate, acuminate-pointed, and resemble those of *T. grandiflorum*, but are long-petioled; the petals are large, obovate-mucronate, white with a narrow or wide green stripe; the ovary is green, elongate, tapering into the styles, and round, or obscurely three-sided; the ovules are sometimes 12 in number, but generally less, often none, or only one or two, the cavity being filled by an enlarged placenta.

I have not raised plants from the seed, nor can I say, positively, whether it matures seeds. My impression is that the plant fruits sparingly.

The variations from the common form are quite remarkable. Specimens have been found with leaves not distinguishable from those of *T. grandiflorum*; others, with leaves reduced to mere stubs,  $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch long. Sometimes two leaves of the whorl will be thus reduced, and the other, of normal size and shape. Often the leaves are entirely wanting, in which case the calyx is generally larger and performs the function of leaves. Flowers showing all sorts of grades between the typical form and genuine *T. grandiflorum* also occur. Individuals with the white petals and six-angled ovary of the latter in connection with long petioled leaves have been seen; also, forms with sessile leaves, six-angled ovary, and greenish, green-striped, or wholly green petals; also, green-striped petals and elongate ovary—not angled—along with sessile leaves. The shape of the petals varies, and they are, indifferently, smooth or wavy. As before stated, when the stem is leafless, the calyx is commonly enlarged to take the

place of leaves. In like manner, the corolla is sometimes changed into good looking and apparently serviceable leaves.

Monstrous forms are not rare, as for instance;—stamens and styles converted into leaves, some of the former retaining a trace of the anther on the edge of the leaf; styles enlarged and leafy, sometimes antheriferous; calyx large and the other floral organs abortive, or reduced to Liliputian dimensions; stamens double the ordinary number, &c.

In casting about for a *specific* description, no permanent character could be found. The petioled leaves, green-striped petals, and round, or obscurely three-sided ovary would offer a good specific character, were they constant; but such is not the case. The plant seems more than a sport and less than a species. If it is simply an abnormal form, as the appearance of the ovary would seem to indicate, the question arises: Why should it occur every year? Sports are generally rare and do not repeat themselves, or but to a limited extent. This plant is common and well distributed. My present opinion, formed from a careful examination of many specimens gathered at different times and in various localities, is that the plant in question is a variety of *Trillium grandiflorum*. The ordinary form does not greatly resemble the latter, but the intermediate forms above noticed apparently show a connection between the two. It is barely possible that the plant may establish a claim to consideration as a species,—the intermediate forms being hybrids. It is desirable that those who have met this variety should watch its behavior, and ascertain whether the ovules develop into good seeds. For the present, the plant might be dubbed *T. grandiflorum*, var. *variegatum*, or something like that.—ERWIN T. SMITH, *Hubbardston, Mich.*

NOTES FROM WEST VIRGINIA.—From all that can be learned by means of published reports, very little collecting has been done in West Virginia, if we except the work of Mr. J. F. James, of Cincinnati, who spent some time at the famous "Hawk's Nest," on the New River. Although the results of a week's work are necessarily small, they may possibly add something to our knowledge of the geographical distribution of the North American flora and the knowledge of the topography of the region traversed by the Great Kanawha and New Rivers, should certainly have some influence in inducing more thorough exploration. The scenery in these valleys is almost sublime—and wherever there is grand scenery it is usually a fine place for the labors of a botanist. From the mouth of the Great Kanawha